



3 1761 11970222 3

Government  
Publication

81-D-55

Canada. Statistics.  
Civic playgrounds in Canadian  
cities of 10,000 population and  
over, 1933







81-D-55

Published by Authority of the HON. H. H. STEVENS,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

## DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Chief Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, Education Branch:	M. C. MacLean, M.A., F.S.S.
Assistant Chief, Education Statistics:	J. E. Robbins, M.A.

Civic Playgrounds in Canadian Cities of  
10,000 Population and Over, 1933.

Organized playgrounds, apart from school grounds, are supported out of city funds at least 46 of the 70 Canadian cities which at the census of 1931 had a population over 10,000. In most of these the playgrounds are conducted by a city department, but in some cases by an independent organization with financial assistance from the city; in a few cases there are organizations of both kinds. Thirteen cities do not support playgrounds and their activities are conducted by service clubs or other organizations in four of these. From the remaining eleven cities no information has been received.

A minority of the 46 cities do more than provide or equip the grounds. Twenty of them employ professional recreation leaders to direct or supervise the use of the grounds at least part of the year while ten of them employ such leaders the year round.

The types of recreation most commonly provided may be seen from the following comparison:

<u>Type or Provision</u>	<u>Number of Cities Providing</u>
Parks or grounds with general equipment for play .....	41
Playing fields for baseball, softball, soccer, etc. ....	38
Rinks for skating only .....	21
Rinks for hockey only .....	15
Rinks for both skating and hockey .....	27
Toboggan slides .....	11
Indoor swimming pools .....	7
Tennis courts .....	17
Bowling greens .....	8
Golf courses .....	8
Outdoor swimming pools .....	8
Bathing beaches .....	8
Indoor community recreation centres .....	3

There follows a directory of the playground organizations conducted or assisted in the 46 cities. At the end of the list are the names of cities where service clubs or other organizations maintain playgrounds independently.

<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Managing Authority</u>	<u>Official Making Report</u>
<u>Prince Edward Island</u>		
Charlottetown	Public Property Committee	A.A. Hennessy, Chairman.
<u>Nova Scotia</u>		
Halifax	Playgrounds Commission	George J. Lynch, Secretary.
Glace Bay, Sydney	(no civic playgrounds)	
<u>New Brunswick</u>		
Saint John	Public Lands Department	(no report)
Moncton	(no civic playgrounds)	
<u>Quebec</u>		
Joliette	-	Camille Bonin, Secrétaire-Trésorier de la Cité
Lachine	-	R. Dain, Ingénieur de la Cité
Montreal	Département des Parcs & Récréations	Yves Asselin, Assistant Surintendant
Montreal	Parks & Playgrounds Assoc.	Wm. Bowie, Executive-Secretary.





City or Town	Managing Authority	Official Making Report
<u>Alberta</u>		
Calgary	Parks Department	Wm. R. Reader, Parks Supt.
Edmonton	City Engineer's Department	A.W. Haddow, City Engineer.
Lethbridge	Parks Department	J. T. Watson, City Manager.
Medicine Hat	Parks Department	E. Ashburner, City-Engineer.
<u>British Columbia</u>		
New Westminster	Parks Board	William Rigby, Supt. of Parks.
Vancouver	Playground & Recreation Dept.	Ian Eisenhardt, Supervisor of Recreation.
Victoria	Parks Dept., Parks Committee	J.A. Worthington, Chairman.

Clubs and other organizations maintaining playgrounds independently

Sydney, Nova Scotia	-	Rotary Club
Levis, Quebec	-	Rév. Père J.E. Carrier
Sorel, Quebec	-	Chevaliers de Colomb
Guelph, Ontario	-	Kiwanis Club
North Bay, Ontario	-	Lions Club
Oshawa, Ontario	-	Rotary Club
Sault St. Marie, Ontario	-	Kiwanis Club
Edmonton, Alberta	-	Gyro Club

Recreational Activities Reported by Service Clubs

Service clubs in all of the larger cities were asked to mention any activities conducted by them which supplemented the work of the regular playground authorities. A summary of the replies follows, for its interest in showing some of the ways in which independent bodies assist in the provision of recreational facilities.

- Montreal, Que. - Kiwanis Club - The portable wading pools and street showers, which the club donated to the Parks and Playgrounds Association some years ago, are operated by the Club at an annual cost of \$500. Assists the Griffintown Club in its various amusements and athletic activities. This club was built by the Kiwanis Club in 1929 at a cost of \$125,000. On seven occasions in 1933 community singing was organized in Fletchers Field with an estimated attendance of 10,000 an evening.
- Quebec, Que. - Kiwanis Club - Built and equipped a swimming pool for the Limoilou Playgrounds. Gives financial assistance to the Quebec Playgrounds Association.
- Cornwall, Ont. - Kiwanis Club - Paid one half of the cost of a \$4,000 swimming pool built in 1929. Has in the past employed playground and swimming instructors but discontinued this practice last year.
- Fort William, Ont. - Gyro Club - Free swimming instructions for school children. In the last three years 1,600 children have been taught to swim.
- Hamilton, Ont. - Rotary Club - Pays the membership of 70 boys in the Y.M.C.A.
- London, Ont. - Kiwanis Club - Pays the membership of 80 boys in the Y.M.C.A.
- Niagara Falls, Ont. - Lions Club - Free swimming instructions for school children. About 200 children taught to swim each year.
- Port Arthur, Ont. - Gyro Club - Spends \$125 each year on swimming instructions for school children.
- St. Catharines, Ont. - Lions Club - Contributes \$300 annually to city playgrounds. Pays the membership of 28 boys in the Y.M.C.A.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024 with funding from  
University of Toronto



- t. Catharines, Ont. - Rotary Club - Gives financial assistance to city playgrounds.  
Pays the membership of 25 boys in the Y.M.C.A.
- Stratford, Ont. - Lions Club - Recently constructed a \$16,000 swimming pool which  
has been donated to the city.
- Toronto, Ont. - Kiwanis Club - Operates a club for boys with an active membership  
of 496 in 1933. In addition to the programme of athletics and  
different amusements, arranged for the boys, vocational classes  
in printing, woodworking, basket-weaving and telegraphy were held  
during the year.
- Rotary Club - Has secured the use of three public schools and one  
collegiate institute as centres for organized recreational  
activities in one of the poorer sections of the city. About  
2,200 boys and girls took part in softball games and swimming  
during the summer and 1,400 participated in the gymnasium  
exercises and games, swimming and different forms of entertainment  
provided during the winter.
- Brandon, Man. - Kinsmen Club - Has in the past operated several playgrounds in the  
city but were forced to drop them.
- Kiwanis Club - Built and operates a paddling pool and a swimming pool.
- Winnipeg, Man. - Kinsmen Club - Sponsors a club for boys under the direction of a  
trained supervisor.
- Kiwanis Club - Has organized 10 clubs for boys and 10 for girls  
supervised by men and women with Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. training.  
Arranges each year for the building and maintenance of a number  
of open air skating rinks. Annual cost of work \$3,000.
- Rotary Club - Has organized a number of clubs for boys holding  
weekly meetings in public schools. Operates 5 open air rinks  
used by the clubs' three hockey leagues.
- Regina, Sask. - Rotary Club - Constructed a wading pool in one of the city parks  
at a cost of \$3,000. Pays the membership of a number of boys  
in the Y.M.C.A.
- Rotary Club - Organized recreational activities for the unemployed  
of the city. During the winter of 1933, 4,441 adults and 3,842  
children were registered as participating in the concerts, dances,  
hockey leagues, boxing and wrestling and various amusements  
organized by the club.
- Calgary, Alta. - Rotary Club - Three years ago the club equipped a playground for  
boys and girls, which is being conducted by the city.
- Edmonton, Alta. - Rotary Club - Last year built two open air skating rinks for  
children.
- Medicine Hat, Alta. - Rotary Club - Has provided the city with three swimming pools at a  
cost of \$15,000.
- Vancouver, B.C. - Gyro Club - In the last eleven years has spent \$50,000 equipping  
seven city playgrounds.
- Victoria, B.C. - Kiwanis Club - Has built two wading pools in city parks.









